

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SITUATION AT PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY, BELGRADE UNIVERSITY

REF: A. BELGRADE 0244 (NOTAL; B. BELGRADE 0221 (NOTAL)

1. PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY PROFESSOR TELLS US MEETING WAS SCHEDULED FOR JAN 17 BETWEEN BELGRADE EIGHT AND PRESIDENT LC SERBIA VLASKALIC, PRESIDENT SERBIAN ASSEMBLY MARKOVIC, PRESIDENT SERBIAN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BOJANIC AND RECTOR BELGRADE UNIVERSITY GLIGORLJEVIC. (WE HAVE NOTHING TO CONFIRM THAT SUCH A MEETING TOOK PLACE). SOURCE INDICATES COMPROMISE MAY HAVE BEEN AIMED AT WHICH WOULD DEFUSE EXPLOSIVE SIUTATION AT PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY: EIGHT WOULD RESIGN THEIR TEACHING POSITIONS BUT CONTINUE TO RECEIVE SALARIES, PRESUMABLY BEING LIMITED TO ENGAGING IN RESEARCH WORK OUTSIDE FACULTY ITSELF, BUT OFF FROM STUDENT BODY. SOURCE CONFIRMS WHAT WE HAD HEARD EARLIER ABOUT EIGHT HAVING BEEN OFFERED POSITIONS IN RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS AND HAVING CONSISTENTLY REFUSED THEM.

2. COMMENT: NOW THAT PARTY PRESTIGE IS FULLY COMMITTED TO OUSTER OF EIGHT FROM TEACHING POSITIONS, APPEARS TO US
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ONLY "GIVE" LEADERSHIP COULD CONDONE IS PRECISELY ON THIS

POINT OF GUARANTEEING FUTURE LIVELIHOOD OF THE EIGHT. THESE PROFESSORS WOULD, HOWEVER, CERTAINLY HAVE TO COMMIT THEMSELVES NOT TO WRITE FOR PUBLICATIONS, AT LEAST FOR FORSEEABLE FUTURE, AS PART OF PRICE FOR NOT BEING KICKED OUT OF UNIVERSITY ALTOGETHER.

3. SAME FACULTY SOURCE ATTRIBUTED CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO POTENTIAL IMPACT OF FOREIGN CRITICISM IF PROFESSORS ARE SACKED. HE SAID LCY ANXIOUS TO RESOLVE CASE OF THE EIGHT "AMICABLY" AND IS WORKING HARD TO THIS END. ALSO SAID ITALIAN PARTY PREPARING TO SEND IN "STRONG PROTEST AGAINST DRASTIC ACTION". SENSITIVITY TO FOREIGN PRESS COVERAGE ALSO SHOWN IN TANJUG "FEATURES" ARTICLE BY NEW PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY PARTY ORGANIZATION BERTOLINO (BELGRADE 0121 NOTAL) WHICH IS NOT CARRIED IN PRESS SO FAR AS WE KNOW AND WHICH APPEARED IN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TANJUG BULLETIN -- AIMED AT FOREIGN READERSHIP -- JAN 18. BERTOLINO TRIES TO EXPLAIN AWAY PRESSURE AGAINST GROUP OF EIGHT AS CASE OF ACTION AGAINST EDUCATORS ENTRUSTED WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD YUGOSLAV SOCIETY BUT CLAIMING MONOPOLY ON CRITICISM OF THIS SOCIETY AND BLIND TO POSITIVE RESULTS OF SELF-MANAGEMENT, PUSHING ELITIST CONCEPT AND ACTING IN BIASED, DESTRUCTIVE MANNER AGAINST YUGOSLAV SYSTEM. BERTOLINO HAS SOME DIFFICULTY IN ARGUING THAT ACTION AGAINST EIGHT IS NOT SUPPRESSION OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM, SINCE HIS ONLY THESIS IS: "THESE TEACHERS HAVE BEEN GUARANTEED EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE THE YUGOSLAV SYSTEM OF EDUCATION CORRESPONDING TO THEIR QUALIFICATIONS...ALL THAT IS INVOLVED IS TO DENY THEM THE RIGHT TO ACT ON THE STUDENT BODY IN A SPIRIT CONTRARY TO THE VERY CLEARLY ENUNCIATED PRINCIPLES OF EDUCATIONAL-SCIENTIFIC POLICIES OF A SOCIALIST-SELF-MANAGING SOCIETY".

4. SO-CALLED EXPLANATORY STATEMENT ACCOMPANYING RESOLUTION APPROVED BY BELGRADE UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY JAN 14 (PARA 6 REF A, REF B) GIVEN FULL TREATMENT IN JAN 17 ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TANJUG BULLETIN -- ONE MORE EFFORT TO GET "CORRECT" INTERPRETATION TO NEWSPAPERS ABROAD. IN ADDITION TITO CRITICISM NOTED REF A, STATEMENT APPEARS TO SUMMARIZE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEADERSHIP'S BASIC CASE AGAINST BELGRADE EIGHT: THAT THEY ABUSED TEACHING POSITIONS FOR OWN POLITICAL END, WHICH WAS TO OPPOSE "CONTINUITY OF OUR REVOLUTION" (READ TITOISM); DENIED MARXIST DOCTRINE THAT WORKING CLASS ONLY TRUE REVOLUTIONARY CLASS; REJECTED PRINCIPLE OF DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM AS BUREAUCRATIC AND OUT-OF-DATE; CREATED IMPRESSION OF CONFLICT BETWEEN PARTY AND YUGOSLAV INTELLIGENTSIA; AND (BY FAR WORST OFFENSE,

OF COURSE) CHARACTERIZED YUGOSLAV APPROACH TO COMMUNISM
AS "IDOLATRY OF CHARISMATIC AUTHORITY" (GUESS WHOSE)
AND ASCRIBED STALINISM TO "LEADING SOCIAL FORCES,
THOSE WHICH HAVE IN FACT MOST RADICALLY OPPOSED IT".
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